

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Office of Engineering and Technology Seeks)	ET Docket No. 19-48
Comment on Modifying the Equipment)	
Authorization Rules to Reflect the Updated)	
Versions of the Currently Referenced ANSI)	
C63.4 and ISO/IEC 17025 Standards)	

**COMMENTS OF
CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION**

Consumer Technology Association (“CTA”) respectfully submits these comments in support of the above-captioned Public Notice (“*Notice*”), which proposes to modify the Commission’s rules and procedures to reflect recent updates to two standards: ANSI C63.4a-2017 “American National Standard for Methods of Measurement of Radio-Noise Emissions from Low-Voltage Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Range of 9 kHz to 40 GHz, Amendment 1: Test Site Validation” and ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.”¹ CTA represents more than 2,200 member companies – 80% are small businesses and startups; others are among the world’s best-known brands – who comprise the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry. CTA also owns and produces CES[®], the world’s gathering place for all who thrive on the business of consumer technologies. CTA commends the Commission for continuing to utilize industry standards in its rules and for taking the common-sense step of incorporating the most recent version of these standards into the agency’s rules.

¹ *Encouraging the Provision of New Technologies and Services to the Public*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 18-18 (rel. Feb. 23, 2018) (“*Notice*”).

Following guidance set forth by the Office of Management and Budget,² the Commission has incorporated many industry standards into its rules, including several standards developed at CTA.³ CTA is a champion of voluntary, consensus-based standards, with an extensive Technology and Standards program that includes more than 70 committees, subcommittees and working groups and roughly 1,100 participants as well as American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”) accreditation. In addition, CTA’s members have experience implementing plans to comply with such documents. As a general matter, industry-led, open, and voluntary global standards for communications and information technologies enable cost-effective introduction of new technologies while helping drive competition because the standards can move at the speed of innovation, rather than at the speed of regulation.⁴

Thus, the Commission should act expeditiously to transition to the new versions of ANSI C63.4a-2017 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E). The *Notice* proposes to incorporate updated versions of two standards already in its rules. ANSI C63.4-2014, the predecessor of ANSI C63.4a-2017, has provided certainty and consistency in measurement standards for unintentional radiators since 2014. As a result, manufacturers develop equipment with a solid understanding of how those devices will be evaluated for compliance. In addition, the use of such standardized measurement procedures ensures that devices are evaluated fairly and consistently across

² Office of Management and Budget, OMB Circular A-119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities (Jan 27, 2016), https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/circulars/A119/revised_circular_a-119_as_of_1_22.pdf.

³ See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 79.103 (incorporating the CEA-708 standard into the IP Closed Captioning rules).

⁴ See generally Comments of the Consumer Technology Association, ET Docket No. 17-215 (Oct. 30, 2017) (“CTA TAC Comments on Reforming Technical Regulations”); Comments of the Consumer Technology Association f/k/a the Consumer Electronics Association, to National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Docket No. 160509408-6408-01 (June 16, 2016).

multiple different manufacturers using multiple different test laboratories. This approach promotes competition among equipment manufacturers and among test laboratories resulting in reductions in costs and delays to bring innovative products to market. ANSI C63.4-2014 was itself an update of a standard previously referenced in the Commission’s rules.⁵ The Commission also incorporated ISO/IEC 17025:2005, the predecessor of ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E), into its lab accreditation rules in 2014.⁶ ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) is the updated “gold standard” for lab accreditation. The pace of innovation has only increased in the past five years, and the standards bodies responsible for the ANSI C63.4a-2017 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) have done their jobs by adopting modification to reflect recent developments. The Commission should take the next step by incorporating the updates into its rules.

As CTA previously discussed in its comments to the Technological Advisory Council, incorporating industry standards by reference into the agency’s rules often takes so long that policymakers risk losing some of the benefits of timeliness that accompany consensus-based, industry-led standards.⁷ Delays can be especially long for updated standards because the FCC may only incorporate finalized versions of standards and amendments thereto into its rules.⁸ Both ANSI C63.4a-2017 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017(E) were first adopted in 2017. Accordingly, the CTA applauds the Commission for action now to incorporate these updates and urges the Commission to move expeditiously to incorporate the updated standards into its rules.

⁵ *Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 2, and 15 of the Commission’s Rules regarding Authorization of Radiofrequency Equipment*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Red 16335 ¶¶ 54-60 (2014).

⁶ *Id.* at App. B.

⁷ CTA TAC Comments on Reforming Technical Regulations at 11-12.

⁸ 1 C.F.R. 51.1(f) (“Incorporation by reference of a publication is limited to the *edition* of the publication that is approved. *Future amendments or revisions of the publication are not included.*”) (emphasis added).

CTA looks forward to working with the Commission to facilitate the transition to these new technical standards as well as the introduction of new technologies and service generally.

Respectfully submitted,

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